

Atlas by GROUP 3

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Buildings

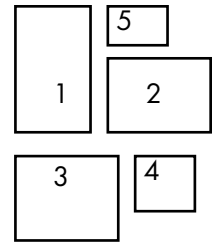
James Bombales <https://www.livabl.com/2016/10/then-and-now-toronto-landmarks.html>
This is a view of the CN Tower looking west from Front St. West at Yonge Street, part of a photo series that compares pictures of Toronto from the 20th century to photos taken in 2016.

Oxford Property Groups <https://bostonrealestatetimes.com/square-one-the-largest-mixed-use-downtown-development-in-canadian-history/>
This source has a series of generic looking condominiums at various angles and is an example of development in Toronto.

<https://www.hollyburn.com/toronto/downtown-toronto/>
This real estate website has pictures of iconic buildings in Toronto that are easily recognizable, such as the Gooderham building.

<https://fivewalls.com/articles/raising-your-kids-in-downtown-toronto-vs-the-suburbs>
This website compares living downtown vs the suburbs and shows a typical image of downtown Toronto street, with generic condominium architecture.

Holly Sisson <http://hollysissonphotography.com/2013/07/16/downtown-walkabout-toronto-photography/>
This image has a fuller streetview of the CN Tower while the other image crops the top of it.





People

<https://www.treehugger.com/walking/science-says-14-year-olds-shouldnt-cross-street-alone.html>.

Two men were crossing the street. One of them was carrying a guitar.

<https://www.crossingtheusa.nl/>

An old lady was crossing the street and carrying her luggage.

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/625789310694920725/>.

Three people were roaming on the street and looking around.

<https://sumabeachlifestyle.com/the-phoenix-hotel-yogyakarta-indonesia/old-lady-yogya/>

An old lady was sitting on street and selling vegetables.

<https://pixabay.com/photos/china-town-chinese-people-walk-4841827/>

There were some old people walking in chinatown.

<https://sf.curbed.com/2017/9/22/16346674/pedestrian-etiquette-san-francisco-sf>

An old lady was walking on the street and checking what was on sale .

<https://www.baynewsnow.com/2019/09/26/community-tourism-in-chinatown/>

A lady was counting her money in front of a group of people who were playing chess.

<https://www.baynewsnow.com/2019/09/26/community-tourism-in-chinatown/>

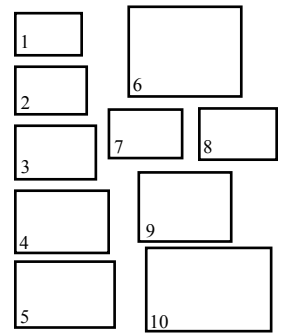
An old woman was walking down the street with her granddaughter.

<https://headtopics.com/uk/chinatown-custom-plummet-worldwide-in-coronavirus-panic-11560943>

Several chinese people were walking down the street and one of the old man is wearing a mask.

<https://www.blogto.com/bakery/n/51/eastchinatown/>

A young man was carrying some boxes with a cart to the restaurant in chinatown.





Chinatown

<https://kecrunch.com/business-to-start-with-20k-in-kenya/>

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Chinatown_in_Toronto.JPG

<https://www.shutterstock.com/video/clip-4966598-shanghai-china---july-03-chinese-people>

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One of the main differences with Chinese supermarkets in Chinatown are the stalls placed outside showing the produce. We wanted to include them on the sidewalk to be more engaging and show an integral part of Spadina and Dundas.



Transportation

<https://www.motortrend.com/news/report-bmw-i8-convertible-wont-arrive-until-2017/?galleryImageId=1174503>

<https://www.pngwave.com/png-clip-art-afytp>

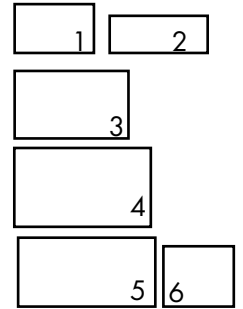
http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-12/30/c_138666003_5.htm

<https://www.brooklynpaper.com/trolley-ho-advocates-of-brooklyn-queens-tram-line-reveal-life-size-streetcar-model/>

<https://dailyhive.com/vancouver/vancouver-broadway-extension-skytrain-lrt-opinion>

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I was looking for what cars and streetcars would look like in the future with a sleeker, bullet train-esque design. Ultimately we decide not to keep any of the vehicles in as it didn't balance out the left side of the image and was distracting.



(6) https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Helicopter_in_Sky.jpg

A typical helicopter as seen around Toronto, found on Wikipedia through google.



Neon Signs

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:HK_Portland_Street_Night.jpg

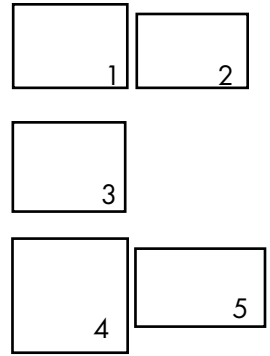
<http://stevensheehy.com/neon-hong-kong/>

<https://www.masterfile.com/image/en/700-00002982/neon-signs-on-street-at-night-hong-kong>

<http://i.imgur.com/lrzhDlZ.jpg>

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We looked towards the bright, neon lit streets of Hong Kong for inspiration. The streets are cluttered with signs both below and above, there's no escaping them.



(5.) <https://www.gettyimages.ca/detail/photo/jesus-saves-neon-sign-on-church-at-night-royalty-free-image/89603876>

An example of neon signage that could be used on a church for the Chinese Gospel Church on Dundas.



Nathan Road - Neon Fantasy

Square version - Neon Fantasy

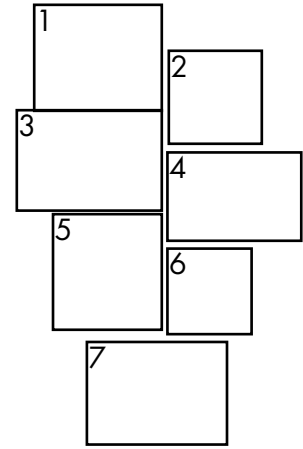
Hennessy Road - Neon Fantasy

Peking Road - Neon Fantasy

Wai Chai Street, Disco Tailer, 1978

Mong Kok street - Neon Fantasy

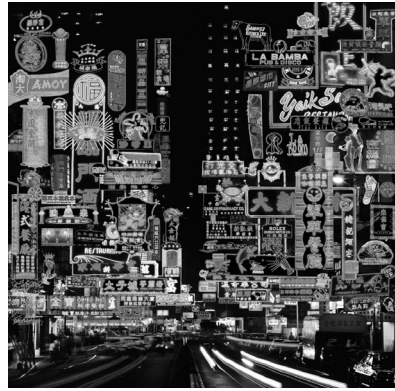
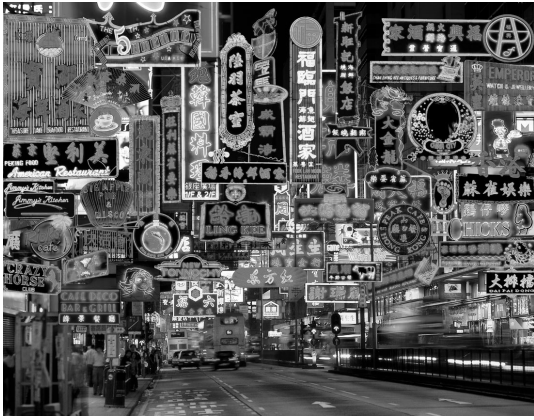
Johnston Road - Neon Fantasy



This are the Keith Macgregor's "Neon Fantasies" series that captures the Neon signs of Hongkong and this visual language of Neons highlights the emergence of consumerism.

"Neon lights are synonymous with Hong Kong where at one time there were over 100,000 neon signs that decorated the city. It would be almost impossible to remove this visual language from how the city is presented in art and culture, photography and films. Neon first became recognised in Hong Kong in 1920 and the first sign appeared in Shanghai in 1926. Flourishing in Shanghai in the 1930s, Hong Kong was, as always, quick to follow the trend opening a neon light factory in 1932. Seen as effective advertisements and signages, first lighting up the streets of Wan Chai (escorting the growing nightclub scene), followed by Nathan Road in Kowloon. Neon signs gain ever greater prominence in Hong Kong in the post World War II era and in the 1950s "neon boom" in Hong Kong. In the Wan Chai District, the neon streetscape of Lockhart Road emerges in sync with the flourishing nightclub business catering to the Marines as US warships made stops in the city during the Korean War. The emergence of more energy-efficient LEDs in the 1990s initiated the decline and by 2003 Hong Kong's neon manufacturing relocates to mainland China; companies remaining in the city diversify to LEDs and light boxes. Between 2006 to 2012 a number of emergency reports on street signs are received, raising a public safety issue. The Buildings Department removes about 3,000 unauthorised signboards per year. In 2013, Hong Kong's "Validation Scheme for Unauthorised Signboards" was implemented, furthering the disappearance of neon signs from the city's streets."

<https://bluelotus-gallery.com/#/keith-macgregor-1/>



Grass

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dn_tfo-QQ2Y (for 1 and 2)

<http://anitasanchez.com/2015/05/12/dandelions-death-on-the-lawn/>

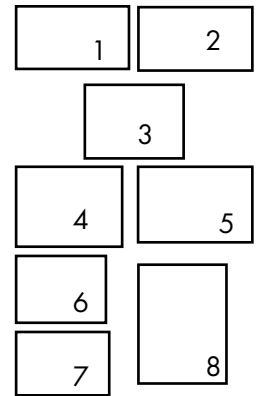
<https://mostlybrightideas.wordpress.com/2010/05/17/lessons-from-the-dandelion/>

<https://www.cleancutproperty.com/weed-control/broadleaf-weeds/>

<https://www.yourgreenpal.com/blog/how-to-treat-and-prevent-brown-patches-in-your-st-augustine-grass>

<https://ask.extension.org/questions/475348>

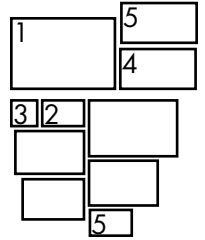
<https://www.whygoodnature.com/common-lawn-issues>



The grass on the streetcar tracks would not be perfect unlike the ones in Europe as the tracks double as a road for cars. Even then, the grass would be dotted with dandelions given the vitality of the weeds and how they grow anywhere, even cement.



Miscellaneous



<https://architecturedesignprimer.wordpress.com/2012/11/07/windows-light-view-air/>
An example of the use of public scooters on the streets in America.

<https://www.northernarchitecture.us/frame-construction/for-and-against-the-long-window.html>
A garbage can on the street, like the ones in front of houses in neighborhoods in the GTA

<https://imgbin.com/png/qLcTJBVd/a-bag-of-garbage-png>
A stock image of garbage.

<https://www.solup.com/las-vegas-tests-solar-powered-street-lights/>
An example of solar panel in Las Vegas.

<https://kids.wng.org/node/4402>
A police officer crossing the street with a scooter, showing the management requirements that come with new technology.

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2019-10-05/san-diego-crackdown-on-marijuana-billboards>
An LA billboard advertising Cannabis, which is legal in Canada.

Other photos by Jennifer Wan, featuring:

- a pigeon living on her balcony
- a typical Toronto garbage can in her neighborhood, taken for the angle
- miscellaneous Torontonians litter



The Future Reality of Chinatown

In the past semester, our class has wrestled with the concepts of reality and digital flatness. The Big Flat Now is even more real now as the final state of our image remains in the digital plane rather than being physically printed out, as a result of social distancing measures. Although the near future is uncertain because of the virus, our depiction of Toronto portrays our ideas of how the city would change as a result of cultural and commercial development. We took a picture of Chinatown at Spadina and Dundas, an area that is both the heart of Toronto and closely connected to us as Daniels students, and we used a perspective that would give a good view of the street, road, and roadside stores.

Project Ambition

Our ambition was to portray the advance of consumerism in Toronto, connecting Chinatown's development to the highly commercial development in Hong Kong. We chose to add images that reference both Asia and Toronto, such as Torontonians condominium buildings, Hong Kong street signs, and a higher Asian demographic. The streets will be filled with signs advertising consumerism. We also wanted to show a degree of technological advancement through solar panels and a shinkansen-like streetcar. A North American influence in imagery is shown in having electric scooters like many American cities have. We ended up deciding on having a grassy tram.

Reality

Our other driving factor was to keep a close tie with reality rather than portraying an idealized dream of development. We kept images tied closely with our current perceptions of Toronto, such as pigeons and trash from Tim Hortons. Another example is the scooter with a lost wheel, which is connected to bike wheel thefts in downtown Toronto. The strong Chinese presence in people and signs is connected to the demographic of Chinatown, connecting the demographic to the landscape. These efforts served to maintain and emphasize the local vibe of Chinatown rather than washing it over.

It is interesting to point out that we did not use any generated images or models in this assignment. In some ways, all of the images that were cut into our Photoshop file all reflect the reality of Toronto in different ways, but because they don't actually exist on Dundas and Spadina, we create a new reality using them.

Projecting a Future City

Because our approach was to make a realistic view of how Toronto may develop, we often used pictures of actual development in other areas as reference, rather than clean idealized versions. Projecting a future city depends on how optimistic you are. We went for what we saw as a realistic projection for the future to take outside of disasters or major urban shifts. I say this as we're in the middle of a pandemic and even now we don't know when it will end and what changes, if any, it will leave on our society. Projecting the future we took inspiration from other cities that can perhaps be said are further ahead than Toronto is, Hong Kong and its glittering streets of consumerism, Europe and its green lawns for streetcars, even the scooters were taken from an unposed candid photo in the US. Because we can't know the future in its entirety we simply looked to what already exists and cobbled together a direction that Toronto may take. We also used pictures of actual trash and birds seen in the GTA. In our atlas you will find pictures taken by our group in the places we live as well as photos by other photographers of raw city landscapes.

Working in Flat-mode

This assignment was strongly reminiscent of our class readings, such as Beatriz Colomina's description of Le Corbusier. Le Corbusier took images out of their contexts from architecture photos and magazine catalogues. To make our scene, we had to use images from a multitude of sources, taking them out of context and cobbling them together to give them new meaning. In order to find images, we went to search engines and social media websites such as google and pinterest. Images were taken from anywhere from a professional photographer to patches of grass from a site on lawn care, we did not care about context as long the image itself suited our needs. Like Le Corbusier, we equalized "high art" and "mass culture" on the flat plane of photoshop. Some of the photos we used were professional photography while others were from public domains or stock images. The surrounding objects on the image define the cut out images rather than their original contexts. The digital flat plane becomes to us as the pages of *L'Esprit Nouveau*.

Our process in creating this image also reflects the concepts of "remixing vs being both", "appropriation", and "selective selecting" in *The Big Flat Now* of o32c. In our assignment, we combine various different objects from different sources to create something new. Rather than being a juxtaposition, or contrasting them, they are all joined together to create a new reality on the digital plane. The images are also not curated but instead, selectively selected to fit the resulting creation.

Overall, working in flat mode shows how easily the value and meaning in a digital image can be lost or changed, even more so than in the past. While Le Corbusier removed the backgrounds in some of his photos, we could change the lighting and manipulate all aspects of the image until it fits into its new context. Originality and the aura of the original images are also lost, and a new version is generated.

